

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on the last line of page 1 as follows:

The above-described conventional PEFM is operated on the basis of the principles of FIG. 1, in which one end of a spring 11 having elasticity is fixed to a respiration tube 10 ⑤ within the respiration tube 10, and the other end thereof is connected to a movable plate 12 movably arranged in the respiration tube 10. Further, an indicator 13 extending through the wall of the expiration tube 10 is arranged to be in contact with the movable plate 12. In FIG. 1, when the expiratory flow F of a patient does not exist, that is, when the PEFM is not used, the movable plate 12 is placed at a location ① shown in FIG. 1, and the indicator 13 is made to be in close contact with the movable plate 12. When the patient starts to expire, a force of expiratory flow F is applied to the movable plate 12, so that the movable plate 13 starts to move to the right side of the drawing. As a push force ~~F~~ obtained force obtained by the expiratory flow F increases, a movement distance L is lengthened, and the indicator 13 moves together with the movable plate 12. Simultaneously, the movable plate 12 pulls the spring 11, so that an elastic force is generated and maintained in the spring 11. A patient forcibly expires as in spirometry, which corresponds to a standardized respiratory function examining method of allowing the patient to apply a mouth to the expiration tube 10 and expire as rapidly as possible and as much as possible, after maximally inhaling air. If the value of the push ~~force F~~ force, generated by the expiratory flow F during the forcible expiration of the patient, starts to decrease from a peak value, the movable plate 12 starts to move to the left side of the drawing due to the elastic force of the spring 11, and consequently returns to ② its original location ①. However, since the indicator 13, having moved ③ while being in close contact with the movable plate 12, is not connected to the movable plate 12, the indicator 13 moves by the right maximum movement distance L of the movable plate 12 and then remains at a location ②, so that peak expiratory flow is measured by visually measuring the maximum movement distance L .